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Historic Day for Healthcare Reform

Gov. Ritter's eMessage:

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For over two years, my administration, working closely with hospitals and other healthcare stakeholders, has made significant progress in healthcare reform. We have implemented strategies to increase the availability of care, improve the quality of care, and gain control over the escalating cost of care. We gave these efforts a tremendous boost forward last week with the signing of the Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act -- a historic piece of legislation that is the single most important healthcare reform in Colorado in 40 years.

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Video ★ ★ ★ ★



Coming Up ★ ★ ★ ★

Thursday, April 30: Governor Ritter will address the Colorado Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee at its annual meeting.

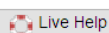
Saturday, May 2: Governor Ritter will sign legislation into law at the start of the annual MS Walk in City Park.

Saturday, May 2: Governor Ritter will sign legislation into law at ceremonies in Broomfield with state Rep. Dianne Primavera and in Arvada with Rep. Sara Gagliardi.

alth CarcareGov. Ritter will be sending a regular eNewsletter to stay in touch with the people of Colorado. If this was forwarded to you from a friend, please click Subscribe below to sign up for future eNewsletters from our office. If you would like to stop receiving these please click the unsubscribe button below.

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eNewsletter - Healthcare Affordability Act Signed

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MONDAY, April 27, 2008

For over two years, my administration, working closely with hospitals and other healthcare stakeholders, has made significant progress in healthcare reform. We have implemented strategies to increase the availability of care, improve the quality of care, and gain control over the escalating cost of care. We gave these efforts a tremendous boost forward last week with the signing of the Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act -- a historic piece of legislation that is the single most important healthcare reform in Colorado in 40 years.

Our nation, our state and our communities are struggling with the growing number of uninsured. The problem worsens every day as a declining national economy pushes more and more families onto the ranks of the uninsured. Through a unique partnership between my administration and the Colorado Hospital Association, we are turning the tide, and turning it in a very big way.

The Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act will provide coverage to more than 100,000 uninsured Coloradans, without costing taxpayers a penny more. Children, pregnant women, people with disabilities and hard-working families who can't afford insurance will now have coverage. Making coverage available to more people is a big step forward. But it's not enough. We also must address quality and cost, and that is exactly what this Act does.

The Act will make healthcare more affordable for everyone by reducing uncompensated care and reducing cost-shifting -- the shifting of healthcare costs from those who partially pay or don't pay at all to those who do. It also will address quality through Colorado's first hospital quality incentive fund.

Importantly, the Act does not rely on the state's budget. Instead, in partnership with hospitals, it follows a strategy used by 40 other states to finance healthcare by bringing more of our federal tax dollars back to Colorado.

In a time of economic uncertainty, this legislation will provide stability and security for thousands of uninsured Coloradans who currently live with the worry each day that they are one accident or one medical diagnosis away from bankruptcy.

This legislation is a great example of industry and government coming together to enact a common-sense strategy that will lead Colorado forward and help people and businesses all across the state. While not a silver bullet solution to our healthcare challenges, it represents a huge step forward in a time of tremendous need.

Sincerely,

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor